WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Stand taken by India on WTO talks

1934. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had threatened to walk away from biased WTO Agreement as reported in print media, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that adequate ground work was not done for the WTO talks;

(c) the steps taken to involve other lesser developed countries to present a joint stand at the WTO talks; and

(d) the details of the steps proposed by Government to avoid taking postures which cannot be sustained in the long run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (b) the Government has a two-pronged strategy for dealing with the negotiations in the WTO including the on-going negotiations under the Doha Work Programme and those relating to adoption of the Framework Agreement by the General Council on 1st August, 2004 setting the roadmap for these negotiations. On the domestic front, the Government holds wide-ranging consultations with the stakeholders on the various WTO issues. At the WTO, India has built issue-based coalitions with various developing countries such as the G-20 on Agriculture, G-33 on Special Products and G-16 on Singapore issues which has proved successful in not only furthering its interests, but also that of the developing countries in general in these negotiations. These alliances have also been closely coordinating positions with the broad G-90, an alliance consisting of ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) and Least-developed Countries (LDCs) in these negotiations.

In the negotiations for the Framework Agreement relating to agriculture, India and Brazil, represented the G-20 group in the discussions with the major trading partners represented by Australia, the European Communities and the United States and succeeded in providing for substantial reduction in the trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided by developed countries to their farm sector; time bound elimination of their export subsidies; substantial improvement in market access

opportunities for products of export interest to developing countries and provision of special and differential treatment for developing countries for safeguarding their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs

while in the next stage of negotiations India will continue to hold consultations with domestic stakeholders, it will also operate through issue based coalitions of various countries at the WTO to achieve its objectives in the negotiations.

Export of Agri Products

1935. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA.
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether there has been a rise or fall in exports of the agri products to various world markets,

(b) the details thereof for the last 5 years, year-wise,

(c) whether Government plan to open new markets for exports of agri products; and

(d) the steps Government propose to ensure the growth of agri products to compete in the world markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E V.K S ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) India's Agriculture exports have been steadily increasing over the last few years. The exports have increased from Rs. 14,813 crore in the year 1999-2000 to Rs 23,839 crore during the year 2003-04. Agriculture exports (excluding tea, coffee, marine, cotton and castor oil) for the last five years are as below:

Year	Agriculture Export	
	Rs. Crore	US$ Million
1999-2000	14,813	3,419
2000-01	16,773	3,672
2001-02	18,763	3,934
2002-03	22,239	4,589
2003-04	23,839	4,747